

**Missouri Assessment Program
Spring 2006**

Communication Arts

Rangefinders for Released Writing Prompt

Grade 7

WRITING

Directions

Now you will write a paper in response to a writing prompt. First, read the prompt in the box below.

Then use the separate paper your teacher has given you for your prewriting activity (such as brainstorming, listing, freewriting, clustering, mapping, or drawing).

After you finish your prewriting activity, write your first draft on the separate paper your teacher has given you. Look back at your prewriting activity for ideas.

Writing Prompt

You read about a veterinarian resolving a problem with a cat. Think about a problem that many teenagers face today. Write a paper to share with your class in which you describe the problem and explain how it might be resolved.

Go On ►

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Do you ever feel like you don't know what you are doing or want to do? Do your friends ever say they have this feeling? In my opinion, one of the worst problems facing today's young people is a disease worse than all others: laziness. It's not HIV, AIDS, or even cancer, but a disease fabricated by us for our own destruction. Three problems with this issue and ways to resolve them are teenagers trying harder, people helping them, and everyone working together.

In the first place, today's teenagers are not trying to reach higher goals. They believe they have the good life right here, right now, or that they don't need anything else. Many people do not realize how important something is until they no longer have that option. We do not want this happening to our young people. This is why teens need motivation and help right now. I am not saying that every teen needs to go straight to college out of high school. There are other options, like the army. Teens just need to keep their lives on some sort of track so they know what they're doing.

A second idea on this subject is that kids are not getting all the help they need from others. Almost

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Anything hard you'll ever do will require someone else helping from the sidelines. When teenagers have questions or ideas, need someone they can present them to anytime, anywhere. Schools were originally designed partly for this purpose, but most children and teenagers these days hardly know their teachers or counselors. You may think you don't need any help, but at sometime, you will need something from a teacher or other adult. This may be just a resource or a good report, but the time will come.

My last point is that together, we can solve this problem and cure the disease that's sweeping our nation. All we have to do is get involved. I don't mean teachers and kids, or parents and kids. I mean anyone and everyone involved in a teenager's life. Have you ever heard the saying "It takes a village to raise a child"? Well, that is very close to the truth in this case. It might take a mini-army or just that one special person to direct a teenager. Teens, you can also get involved by helping others. There has to be someone you know that can use a sense of direction.

In closing, I leave you with this thought: You can help cure the cure the disease of a lifetime by helping just one life. No matter what age you are, your job, or the color of your eyes, you can make a difference in

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Some young persons life. Believe it ... or not. This choice is
yours. Will you make the right choice?

Score Point 4+

- > Has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- > Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- > Contains a strong controlling idea (how to cure the disease of laziness).
- > Progresses in a logical order.
- > Uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, pronouns, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs (in the first place, in closing).
- > Clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- > Uses vivid and precise language (fabricated, resolve, sweeping our nation, mini-army).
- > Contains sentences that are clear and varied in structure.
- > Effectively uses writing techniques such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice ("...disease worse than all others: laziness.", "...saying 'It takes a village to raise a child?'").
- > Clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose ("Do you ever feel...", "We can solve this problem").
- > Contains a few errors ("...help cure the cure the disease...").



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Is there a problem facing teenagers in your society today that you worried about? One problem that worries me is the drug meth. Teens that are using meth along with other drugs are falling into peer pressure. They also think that if I do this I'll look cool and be popular, when that really isn't the case. Three ways to lower or even stop the use of drugs and meth are having more people come and talk to schools about meth, places where teenagers can go to talk about meth problems, and having drug tests at schools.

In the first place, drugs can kill you. So if we had people come and talk to schools about using meth especially if they use meth before they could tell teens what it's done to their lives, maybe it will change the teenagers' minds. The speaker could talk about how it's ruined their hopes and dreams. After you're convicted of using meth you can't work

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in a medical field, for the government, with children, or many other jobs. Some people have even got 20 plus years for using meth.

In the same way, if we had more places where teens could go to talk about meth problems so they won't fall into peer-pressure the number of meth users would be cut down. If they come to get help for themselves we could help get them into rehab. Or if they are just coming to ask what they can do to help a friend or family member, we could get them information or even go and talk to them. Kids could even talk about how other kids are doing drugs and how they could approach them to help.

Last but not least, at schools they can have weekly, or even monthly drug tests it would cut down the amount of kids using meth. Then when teens ask them if they want to use meth then they would have another reason to say no.

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If we had drug tests many meth users would stop in fear of going to juvey or even jail. If kids are caught with the drugs in their system they would be sent to juvey and maybe even jail.

With all that said, is meth or any other drug a problem for teens in your society? Having people come and talk to schools about meth, places where teens can go to talk about drug use, and having drug tests at schools can change the lives of many teens. Meth, is it worth it?

Score Point 4

- > Has an effective beginning, middle and end.
- > Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- > Contains a strong controlling idea (the ills of, and solutions for, meth).
- > Progresses in a logical order.
- > Uses effective cohesive devices (such as transitions, repetition, pronouns, parallel structure) between and/or within paragraphs ("In the first place...", "...With all that said...", poses a question at the beginning of both the introduction and the conclusion).
- > Clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- > Contains some sentences that are clear and varied in structure. Simple language in parts.
- > Effectively uses writing techniques such as imagery, humor, point of view, voice ("Meth, is it worth it?").
- > Clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose ("Is there a problem facing...", "Drugs can kill you.").
- > Contains a few errors in grammar/usage (pressure, use[d], mabey, teenager[']s mind).



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"Peer Pressure"

If you are a teenager, you already know how hard life can be sometimes. If you don't know, let me tell you about one of the main pain in the necks for us teenagers. That problem is peer pressure. Peer pressure is when other people try to get you to be a different person or when they try to get you to do something you don't want to do. Three ways to resolve peer pressure is to talk to an adult, think before you act, and to keep busy with sports and school work. When you feel out of control, these helpful ways will help you feel much better.

Peer pressure will most likely happen while you're in school. What would really help is to talk to people like guidance counselors, teachers that you trust, parents, or simply your friends. Some of you may think that talking to adults is dorky and they don't care what you have to say; however, they care a lot more than you think. Venting out your problems will make you feel better while at the same time, keeping

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Up your self-esteem. You don't need to be what others expect you to be!

When you feel like people hate you and you want to change, do it positively. Sometimes, peer pressure may cause you to want to harm yourself or others around you. Well, you need to think before you act. I'm not going to lie, some people may actually want you to harm yourself or others. You should never harm yourself or others for other people's benefits! That is not the way you want to live your life. You should NOT do drugs, do violence, or cut your wrists because of peer pressure. God created you just the way he wanted you!

By doing school work and playing sports, you will most likely not be the victim of peer pressure. Keeping yourself busy can get you away from the people you don't want to be around. By having nothing to do but sit around, you are pretty much waiting on something to happen to you. More people will respect you if you give yourself something to do.

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Peer pressure is not something you look forward to everyday when you go to school. When you talk to adults, think before you act, and when you keep yourself busy, peer pressure won't get the better of you!

Score Point 4-

- > Has an effective beginning, middle, and end.
- > Uses paragraphing appropriately.
- > Contains a strong controlling idea (problems with peer pressure and how to deal with it). Not as strong as the 4 anchor paper.
- > Progresses in a logical order.
- > Uses effective cohesive devices such as parallel structure between paragraphs by ending each with an emphatic statement to support their ideas.
- > Clearly addresses the topic and provides specific and relevant details/examples.
- > Uses precise language.
- > Contains a mix of sentences from clear and varied in structure to weak. Lacks transitions as strong as the 4 paper.
- > Effectively uses writing techniques such as point of view ("You don't need...others expect...", "God created you just...").
- > Clearly shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Contains a few errors in grammar/usage ("...do violence...", victim).



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Many teenagers today face a problem. This problem is "peer pressure". With "peer pressure" all around, many teens get mixed up. In this essay, you will read about three reasons why "peer pressure" is a problem. So read on and enjoy.

The first reason why "peer pressure" is a problem is drugs. If a bunch of teens are doing drugs, they will try to get others to join in. One way of doing this is by saying things like, "it makes you look cool," or "it won't hurt you". Of course, drugs are bad. Most teens know this, but they want to be accepted. So they try it. Even though they know they shouldn't.

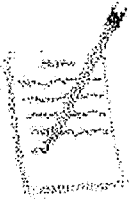
The next reason why "peer pressure" is a problem is alcohol. Alcohol is addictive, but not as bad as drugs. Teenagers think it's cool if they drink, just as they do drugs, but in the long run they find out that it's not. Teens know that alcohol can mess them up, but drink it anyway. They do this because they are being pressured by friends to try it. If they say "no" to drugs and alcohol they could save their life, and make someone else's too.

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The final reason why "peer pressure" is a problem is violence. If some teens' friends act tough, then they think they should too. Well, this is a bad thing. When they act tough, they are labeled "troublemakers" and will probably get in trouble a lot, whether it be for fighting, or whatever else. With violence, someone could be seriously hurt, or even die. In conclusion, "peer pressure" is a problem faced by many teenagers today. This could mean drugs, alcohol, violence, or even other things that teens get a hold of. It is very serious and can be stopped by just saying "no" to your peers.

Score Point 3+

- > Has a weak beginning, middle, and attached to body ending.
- > Uses paragraphing (however the conclusion is included in the third supporting paragraph).
- > Contains a good controlling idea (peer pressure).
- > Generally progresses in a logical order.
- > Uses cohesive devices (first reason, next, in conclusion).
- > Addresses the topic and uses relevant details/ examples ("...saying things like 'it makes...cool', or 'it won't hurt you.' ").
- > Uses language that is usually precise.
- > Contains sentences that are clear but lack variety in structure.
- > Shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Contains errors in grammar/usage (it[']s, "...they could ...their life [lives]...").



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There are many issues teens face today. These include homework, acne, peer pressure, and much much more. Adults don't realize that when you're not an adult, but not a kid that it can be confusing. Teens need to know how to resolve these issues, so that life will be so much easier.

Anyone ever think you have too much homework, well you're not alone. Many teens have homework almost every night one, two, or even three hours of it! Homework can be very stressful, but there are ways you can prevent having that much. You could try to get done in class, solutions, or study hall. You might not be able to finish all of your homework, but at least you will get some done.

Many teens face problems about acne or zits. They get made fun of at school, sport activities, or even at home by brothers and sisters. There are ways to

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prevent some acne. You could wash your face night and day, don't wear make-up, or if it is too serious see your local doctor.

Teens face lots and lots of pure pressure whether it's home, school, activities, or on the bus. Teens get pure pressure about clothing they wear, drugs or alcohol, or even the way you wear your hair. Pure pressure is a nation wide problem. The only way you can resolve this matter is by making the right choices.

There are many problems within teens today, but many of them like, homework, acne, and pure pressure can be resolved with a little self-confidence and self discipline.

Score Point 3

- > Has a beginning, middle, and end.
- > Uses paragraphing.
- > Generally progresses in a logical order. (Three problems and three solutions)
- > Addresses the topic and uses relevant details/examples.
- > Contains sentences that are generally clear but lack variety in structure.
- > Uses language that is usually precise, but simplistic.
- > Shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are not distracting to the reader (issues, relize, "...have to[o] much...", "...homework,[?] [W]ell your [you are] not alone.", pure pressure, several run-on sentences, and missing prepositions).



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Dear Classmate,

Let's get straight to the point. The main problem teens face today is being introduced to drugs. Although a majority of today's teens don't want to do it, the pressure from their so-called friends is so great, they are almost forced to do it. Teens become drug addicts before they really even know what they are getting into. Many teens die in the presence of drugs, whether it be stupidity or an overdose. There are those who are somewhat fortunate to live through their problems, but it messes up their career and eventually turns them into a vegetable. They go so far under that it's too hard for them to get out of the hole they dug themselves.

One way to resolve the problem, like a tetanus shot, have a drug-screening for kids before they go to school. You could also have a K-9 unit (drug dogs) come in once a week on random days and sniff the lockers. These are my views on how to resolve the problem of drug use in teens.

Sincerely,
Zack

Score Point 3-

- > Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- > Uses paragraphing (in an ineffective manner).
- > Contains a controlling idea (peer pressure and drugs).
- > Generally progresses in a logical order.
- > May use cohesive devices.
- > Addresses the topic, but fails to develop relevant details/examples.
- > Uses language that is usually precise (so-called, eventually, overdose, tetanus shot).
- > Contains sentences that are clear and show some variety in structure.
- > Uses writing techniques such as imagery ("...get out of the hole they have dug themselves.").
- > Shows an awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Does contain errors in grammar/usage that are not distracting to the reader ("...today[']s teens...", "Their are...", "...it's to[o] hard...").



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Most teens today face the problem of peer-pressure. Most of this comes from drugs. This goes on in Houses And even in School.

This type of pressure can be Resolved if more teacher go out in the And if Mom & Dad's would pay more Attention to their Kid's

All Adults. Need to be Alert for this kind of think Kid's will Not Stop when they start they will go Blind your Back

Another problem is that Kid's think they can Start Driving when they want when we

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Have to pay for something they
 Damaged We can solve this by
 when you buy a car you have to
 show your license and cops need
 to get out on the street.

Score Point 2+

- > Has an effective beginning, middle, but lacks an ending.
- > Uses paragraphing (each of the paragraphs is simply one run-on sentence, but they each address a separate idea).
- > Contains some sense of direction, but may lack focus.
- > At times seems awkward.
- > Addresses the topic.
- > Uses language that is usually precise.
- > Contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- > May use writing techniques such as transitions-
 "Another problem"
- > Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Contains numerous errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, has several run-on sentences, and many omitted words.



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Teenagers today face the problem of doing drugs or not doing drugs. Many teens today have done drugs or are now doing drugs. The community might not have good living conditions, like broken down houses. And no adults to help them make decisions. We can fix this problem by having sports, a cleaner community and other activities. Such as a choir, soccer, softball etc. And maybe a good police force. To take care of the kids who deal drugs.

Score Point 2

- > Contains some sense of direction (problems with drugs).**
- > Weak beginning, middle, and end.**
- > Does progress in a logical order (from problem to solution).**
- > Addresses the topic, but fails to develop relevant details/examples. Listy and brief.**
- > Uses language that is usually precise.**
- > Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.**
- > Contains errors in punctuation that create sentence fragments and may be distracting to the reader.**



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In sisiety today the biggest thing in my mind is that teenagers are coming free because parents aren't taking controll of thier house holds the kids have had free rane from a very early age and theirfor when they start wanting to do mor things they end up corupted on the streets with nothing to do so they become vielent to one another others and their property. The best way to stop this would be to talk to parents ofer free classes and semonars at comunety centers and get this problem under controll

Score Point 2-

- > Has evidence of a beginning, middle, and end.
- > Contains some sense of direction.
- > At times seems awkward and lacks cohesion. (two sentences)
- > Addresses the topic, but lacks development.
- > Uses precise language (reign, corrupted, seminars).
- > Shows some awareness of audience and purpose.
- > Contains errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that may be distracting to the reader (the first sentence is a run-on that demonstrates all of the aforementioned errors).



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Most teenagers do not have a job and the way to fix that is make school shorter then teenagers will have more time to work. Then they could get to school on time cause they have a car and gas money. But what about school just make school go out through the year. I would like shorter days but go longer out the year.

Thank

you

Score Point 1+

- > Lacks evidence of a beginning, middle, or an end.
- > Is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- > Does not progress in a logical order.
- > Is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- > Contains sentences that are unclear and lack variety in structure.
- > Does not use writing techniques.
- > Shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- > Contains repeated errors in grammar/usage, punctuation, capitalization, and/or spelling that are distracting to the reader (lower case t at start of second sentence, "...cause..." should be because, thought, "...like to shorter days out go longer out the year.").



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The problem that teenagers face today are many like Smoking, Drinking, Not Driving, Not listen to parent and many more.

Teens Face Smoking today

Score Point 1

- > Does not have a beginning, middle, or an end.
- > Has evidence of paragraphing.
- > Is difficult to follow and lacks focus.
- > Is awkward.
- > Address the topic, but stopped.
- > Does not use writing techniques.
- > Shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose (student fails to address how problems should be dealt with).
- > Contains one sentence that is poorly constructed and a sentence fragment with no punctuation. There are random capitals. There is a subject-verb disagreement ("...problem... are many...") and listen is spelled 'listern'.



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many teenagers have
problem with love,
sports & school & poplert.

Score Point 1-

- > Lacks a beginning, middle, and an end.
- > Has no paragraphing.
- > Is difficult to follow.
- > Is awkward and lacks cohesion.
- > May address the topic, but lacks details.
- > Contains a sentence that is unclear.
- > Does not use writing techniques.
- > Shows little or no awareness of audience or purpose.
- > Contains errors in capitalization, spelling, tense disagreement, and punctuation.